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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No.	:	10/007,812
Applicant	:	ROBERT S. SUPINSKI
Filed	:	November 8, 2001
Title	:	PATELLA REPLACEMENT APPARATUS
Group Art Unit	:	3732
Examiner	:	David A. Bonderer
Docket No.	:	011072

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on

this 2nd day of August, 2004.

Buchanan Ingersoll, P.C.

LETTER

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

August 2, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 17, 2004, applicant submits herewith a chart applying the terms of claims 1 through 21 to the disclosure of the application. Since all claims have been found allowable, applicant submits that the application is in condition for declaration of an interference. A proposed Initial Interference Memorandum was submitted as Exhibit D to applicant's request filed May 4, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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Application of the Terms of Claims 1-21 to the Disclosure of the Application Requested by the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.607(a)(5)

CLAIM IN THE PRESENT APPLICATION	SUPPORTING DISCLOSURE
1. A patella replacement device for use in repairing or replacing the destroyed natural patella of a patient, comprising: a first member fabricated from a biocompatible porous metal material and having a rounded fixation surface for implantation in the patella region of a patient with the porous metal allowing biological fixation to the patella region of the patient, said first member having a relatively flat surface opposite said rounded surface and having at least one aperture therein; and	component 12 in Figures 1-4 described at page 5, lines 2-10, and component 22 in Figure 5 described at page 7, lines 1-11
a second member fabricated from a biocompatible joint articulating material and having a top rounded surface and an opposing surface having an extending projection for coacting with said aperture to enable said first member to couple to said second member with said second member operative to allow articulation against the femoral area of said patient.	component 11 in Figures 1-4 described at page 4, line 22, through page 5, line 14, and component 21 in Figure 5 described at page 7, lines 1-11
2. The patella replacement device according to claim 1 further comprising an annular ring having a central aperture for coupling to said flat surface of said first member and having a plurality of apertures about a periphery of said ring, the periphery surrounding and extending from a peripheral edge of said first member.	component 24 in Figure 5 described at page 7, lines 3-18
3. The patella replacement device according to claim 2 wherein said annular ring is fabricated from a biocompatible metal.	page 7, lines 5-9
4. The patella replacement device according to claim 3 wherein said metal is titanium.	page 7, line 5
5. The patella replacement device according to claim 1 wherein said second member is fabricated from polyethylene.	page 5, lines 3-5, and page 7, line 8

CLAIM IN THE PRESENT APPLICATION	SUPPORTING DISCLOSURE
6. The patella replacement device according to claim 1 wherein said second member is fabricated from titanium or cobalt chrome.	page 5, lines 3-5
7. The patella replacement device according to claim 1 also comprising at least one annular collar attached to at least one of the first member and the second member.	components 13 and 14 in Figures 1-4 described at page 5, lines 9-10
8. A patella replacement device for use in repairing or replacing the destroyed natural patella of a patient, comprising: a first member fabricated from a porous metal material and having a rounded fixation surface for implantation in the patella region of a patient with said porous metal allowing biological fixation to said patella region of said patient, said first member having a relatively flat surface opposite said rounded surface and having at least one aperture therein, and	component 12 with portion 19 in Figure 2 described at page 5, lines 2-10, and page 8, lines 4-9, and component 22 with portion 19 in Figure 5 described at page 7, lines 1-11, and page 8, lines 4-9
a second member fabricated from a biocompatible material and having a top rounded surface and an opposing surface having an extending projection for coacting with said aperture in said first member and dimensional so that a peripheral gap is formed between said first and second member when said projection is inserted into said aperture, said gap enabling the accommodation of soft tissue.	component 11 in Figures 1-4 described at page 4, line 22, through page 5, line 14, and page 8, lines 4-9
9. The patella replacement device according to claim 8 further comprising: an annular ring having a central aperture for coupling to said flat surface of said first member and having a plurality of apertures about a periphery of said ring, the periphery surrounding and extending from a peripheral edge of said first member.	component 24 in Figure 5 described at page 7, lines 3-18
10. The patella replacement device according to claim 9 wherein said annular ring is fabricated from a biocompatible metal.	page 7, lines 5-9
11. The patella replacement device according to claim 10 wherein said metal is titanium.	page 7, line 5

CLAIM IN THE PRESENT APPLICATION	SUPPORTING DISCLOSURE
12. The patella replacement device according to claim 8 wherein said second member is fabricated from polyethylene.	page 5, lines 3-5, and page 7, line 8
13. The patella replacement device according to claim 8 wherein said second member is fabricated from titanium or cobalt chrome.	page 5, lines 3-5
14. The patella replacement device according to claim 8 wherein said relatively flat surface of said first member has three apertures, with said second member having three projections each adapted to coact with a respective associated one of said apertures.	apertures are item 18 in Figure 3 described at page 5, lines 15-16 projections are item 17 in Figures 2 and 4 described at page 5, lines 13-16
15. A patella replacement device for use in repairing or replacing the destroyed natural patella comprising: a first member fabricated from a porous metal material, said first member having a rounded fixation surface for implantation in the patella region of a patient, and a relatively flat surface opposite said rounded surface, said flat surface having at least one aperture therein;	component 22 with projections 19 in Figure 5 described at page 7, lines 7-11, and page 8, lines 4-9
an annular ring secured about said first member, said ring having a central aperture, an extending flange portion surrounding said first member and a plurality of apertures about a periphery thereof; and	component 24 in Figure 5 described at page 7, lines 3-18
a second member fabricated from a biocompatible material having a top round surface and an opposing surface having an extending projection for coacting with said aperture in said first member and dimensioned so that a peripheral gap is formed between said first and second members when said projection of said second member is inserted into said aperture of said first member.	component 21 in Figure 5 described at page 7, lines 1-11, and page 8, lines 4-9
16. The patella replacement device according to claim 15, wherein said annular ring is secured to said first member by an interference fit.	page 7, lines 14-15
17. The patella replacement device according to claim 15 wherein said second member is fabricated from polyethylene.	page 7, lines 7-9

CLAIM IN THE PRESENT APPLICATION	SUPPORTING DISCLOSURE
18. The patella replacement device according to claim 15 wherein said annular ring is fabricated from titanium.	page 7, line 5
19. The patella replacement device according to claim 15 wherein said first member has three apertures on said flat surface.	page 7, lines 9-11
20. The patella replacement device according to claim 19 wherein said second member has three projections each one operative to coact with an associated one of said three apertures of said first member.	component 27 in Figure 5 described at page 7, lines 9-11
21. The patella replacement device according to claim 15 wherein said porous metal material accommodates a bone cement placed in said at least one aperture.	page 10, lines 5-14